

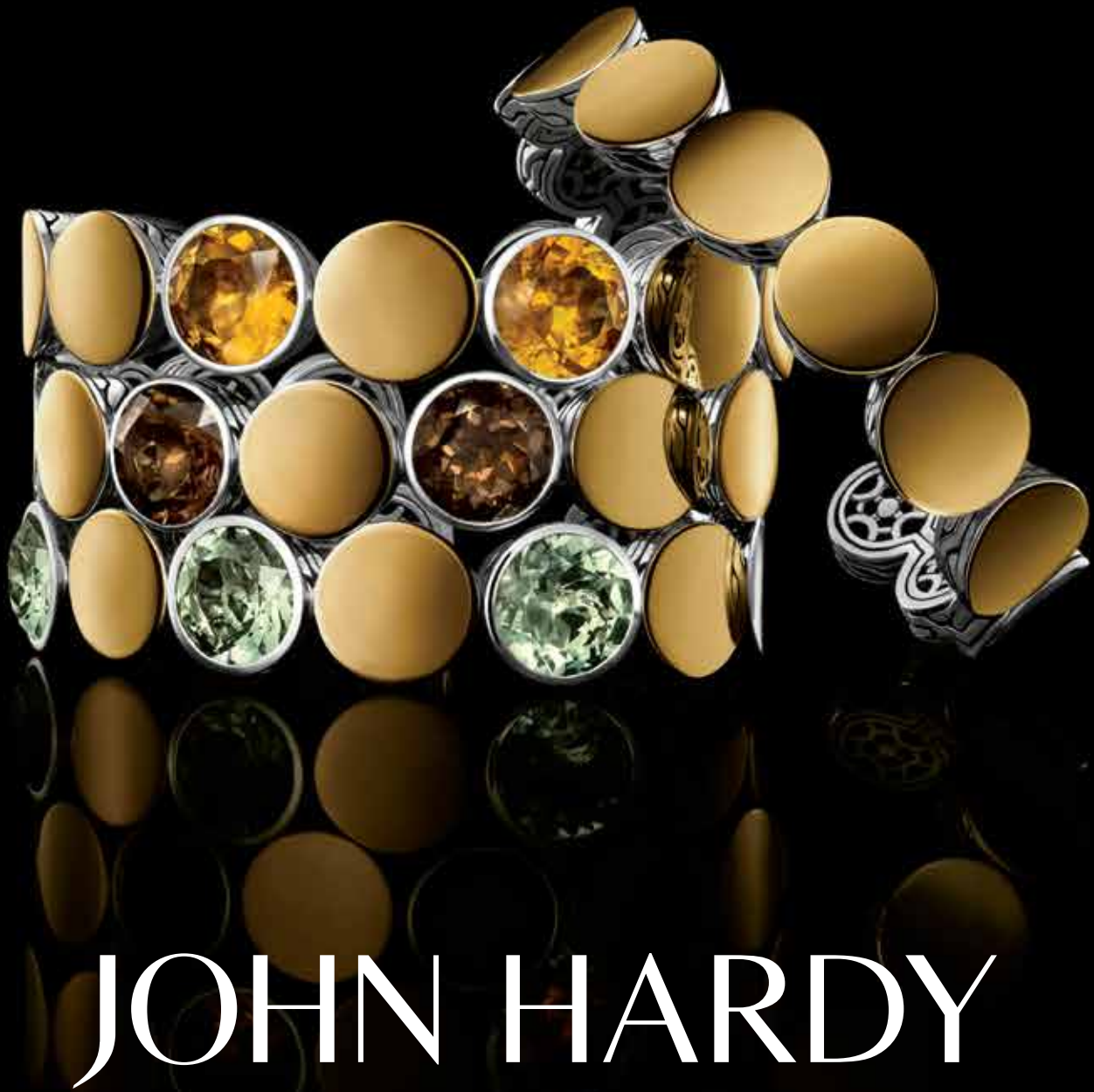
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*Carnaval 60  
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COLLECTOR'S EDITION



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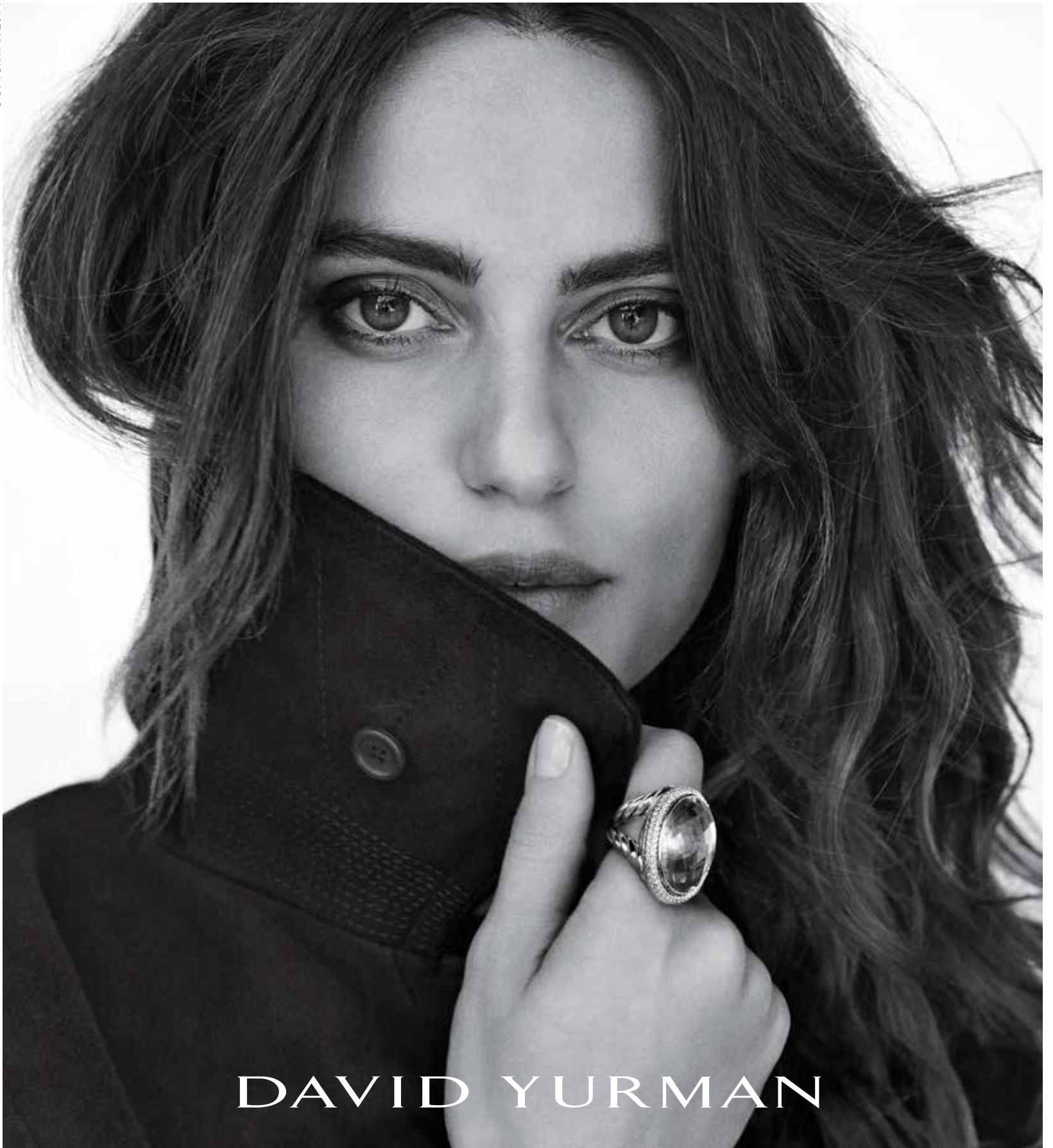
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Our crew is dedicated to going beyond beaches to bring our readers the sights, sounds, and tastes of Aruba. Each edition will contain fresh features and photography spotlighting the local personalities that make this island such a remarkable corner of the world.

Our writers will continue to peel back the cultural layers and introduce you to the talented artists, musicians, chefs, and everyday folk who make Aruba “One Happy Island” and a place you will want to return to again and again.

The *Island Temptations* Crew

## Our Front COVER

Model Nakny Romero is ready for Aruba's Carnival 60 in a costume designed and created exclusively for *Island Temptations* by Andrew Curiel. Bath tub available at Banjolux. Photography by Steve Keith. Hair by Marietta Wanopa. Makeup by Andrew Curiel. Nail design by Adalide Bridenjo from Sari Beauty Salon & Spa.



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# Aruba's Carnival 60 Schedule of Events

February 15 • Grand Tumba Contest

Location: Aruba Entertainment Center. Time: 7:00 pm

February 16 • Grand Children's Carnival Parade

Location: San Nicolas. Time: 12:00 pm

February 20 • Hebbe Hebbe Happening

Location: Oranjestad Post Office Parking Lot. Time: 7:00 pm – 1:00 am

February 21 • Aruba's 60th Carnival Queen Election & Coronation

Location: Aruba Entertainment Center. Time: 7:30 pm – 1:00 am

February 22 • Noord Children's Parade

Location: Noord. Time: 12:00 pm

February 22 • Aruba Tivoli Lighting Parade

Location: Oranjestad . Time: 7:30 pm

February 23 • Grand Children's Carnival Parade

Location: Oranjestad. Time: 12:00 pm

February 24 • Aruba's 1st Carnival Multicultural Queen Election & Coronation

Location: Aruba Entertainment Center. Time: 7:00 pm – 12:00 am

February 25 • Tourist Night Steel Band & Costume Show

Location: Downtown Oranjestad. Time: 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm

February 27 • San Nicolas Lighting Parade

Location: San Nicolas. Time: 8:00 pm – 2:00 am

February 28 • Carnival Masquerade Party (Kiwanis Club)

Location: Renaissance Convention Center. Time: 9:00 pm

March 1 • Jouvert Morning & Pajama Party

Location: San Nicolas. Time: 3:00 am – 7:00 am

March 1 • San Nicolas Grand Carnival Parade

Location: San Nicolas. Time: 11:00 am

March 2 • Aruba's Famous 60th Grand Carnival Parade

Location: Oranjestad. Time: 10:00 am

March 3 • Burning of Momito

Location: San Nicolas. Time: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

March 4 • Burning of Momo

Location: Aruba Entertainment Center. Time: 7:00 pm – 10:30 pm



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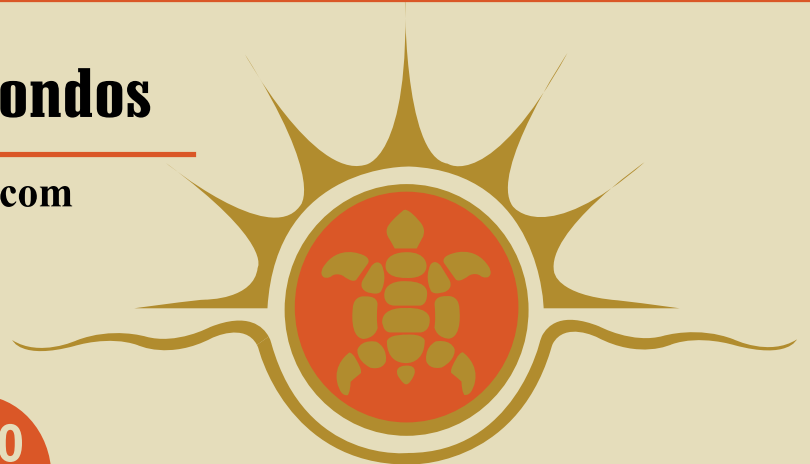
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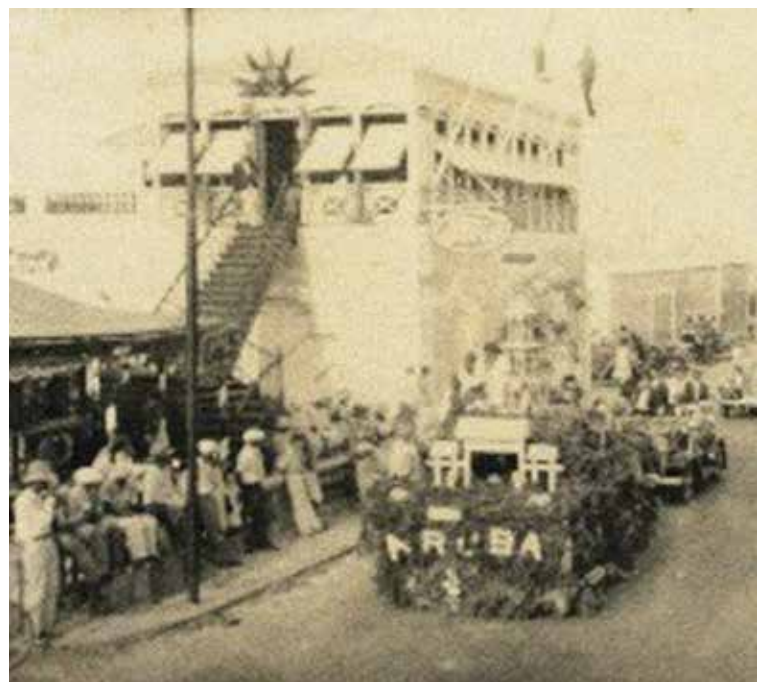
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SPECIAL FEATURE



# CELEBRATING Six Decades of *Carnaval*

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick

Aruba's 60th Carnaval, our Diamond Jubilee, is celebrated this year. Although Aruba's Carnaval roots can be traced all the way back to the 1920s, when various social clubs organized private costume parties during the season, it was not until 1955 that the first grand parade was organized for the public in downtown Oranjestad.

Since that first parade, Aruba's Carnaval season has grown to become one of the largest in the Caribbean, with a weeks-long celebration consisting of festive "jump-ups" (street parties), spectacular parades, and musical events. Dazzling costumes and music play a central role in events ranging from the queen elections to the grand parades, which wind their way down the streets of San Nicolas and Oranjestad to the delight of thousands of spectators.

## Aruba's Carnaval Roots

The Island's Carnaval season is scheduled around the Lenten period determined by the liturgical calendar. The majority of Aruba's population is Roman Catholic, and traditionally the period of Lent is observed by refraining from celebrations and parties. Historically, in the days leading up to Lent, alcohol and rich foods were to be disposed of, prompting family and social gatherings to be held to indulge and enjoy before the upcoming 40 days of sacrifice.

The origins of Carnaval can be traced back to pre-Christian times as well. In Aruba, Carnaval is also referred to as Bacchanal, a term derived from the Roman god Bacchus, god of wine, freedom, and cheer. Some aspects of the ancient Roman festival Bacchanalia are believed by some scholars to have been absorbed into the Italian Carnaval held in



Venice dating back on record to the year 1268. Venice's Carnival is also credited with the original Carnival parades and the tradition of wearing masks and costumes.

But the greatest influence on Aruba's Carnival inarguably comes from the traditions of Trinidad's Carnival celebrations. In the early 1920s, various social clubs organized private costume and masquerade parties during the season. As the Lago Oil Refinery came into prominence, the immigrants brought in to work in the refinery were primarily from Trinidad, as well as Jamaica and British Guyana. The immigrants brought with them a culture rich in traditions, with the customs of Trinidad's Carnival seeping into the social fabric of the Island's various celebrations.

Although always up for debate, the consensus leans towards Oranjestad being credited with the first float parades—typically a truck decorated with palm leaves followed by a group of masqueraders—while San Nicolas is credited with the first unofficial foot parades, organized by the British-island immigrants. In August of 1948, permission was officially granted for a Carnival celebration to be held in the streets of San Nicolas. It was organized by Trinidadian Calvin Assang, who was joined by other immigrant workers in costumes sewn by family and friends. It was the first time that a group orchestrated together under a theme ("Arabian Nights"), with traditional Trinidadian steel-pan music accompanying the revelers throughout the streets of San Nicolas. Later that day, the group made a presentation in Oranjestad, impressing many of the social clubs. In February of the next year, the Tivoli Club formed its own small parade in the streets of Oranjestad around its clubhouse, which is considered to be the first-ever parade held in the actual Carnival season.





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### The 1950s

In the years following Calvin Assang's first celebration in the streets of San Nicolas, Carnival activities began to pop up all over the Island. In 1954, the Central Carnival Committee was formed under the initiative of Aruba Tivoli Club's Eric Arends and was presided over by Dolfi Oduber along with committee members representing other clubs around the Island. The first united Carnival celebrations were held in 1955 with some 120 participants. Other notable traditions and events that began in this decade include:

- Prince and Pancho, the Carnival jokers
- A Carnival Queen is elected to open the parade
- The music of Carnival is dominated by steel bands playing Trinidadian calypsos and road marches
- Children's parades come into prominence in both Oranjestad and San Nicolas
- San Nicolas organizes its own grand parade

### The 1960s

The date of 11/11 has been the traditional start of Carnival on Aruba since 1966, when the Aruba Carnival Foundation, known on the Island as Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval (SAC), was founded on the 11th day of the 11th month at 11:11 am, taking the place of the Central Carnival Committee and gaining



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legal status as a foundation. This decade also ushered in more Carnival traditions and events, including:

- Calypso and road march music competitions
- The Youth Carnival Commission is formed to promote events geared towards the Island's younger generation
- Elections of Youth Carnival Queen, as well as Youth Prince and Pancho
- Arnold Beyde and Samuel Hodge form the first brass band to participate in Carnival

### The 1970s to today

As tourism flourished and became the Island's dominant economic force, Aruba's Carnival became a major tourist attraction. The parades have grown exponentially, as has the amount of money and creativity spent on floats, road pieces, and costumes. Tens of thousands of spectators from around the world have come to watch the excitement unfold. Television programs, newspapers, magazines, and Internet sites have covered Aruba's Carnival, bringing global attention to the Island's special brand of Carnival.

This year's Diamond Jubilee has close to 40 events scheduled on the official SAC calendar, with the San Nicolas Grand Parade and the Oranjestad Grand Parade scheduled for March 1 and 2, respectively. The grand parades are expected to have more than two dozen groups, close to 20 bands and musical acts, and thousands of participants.



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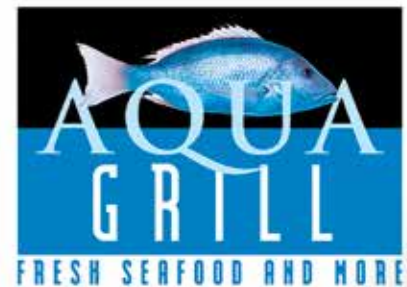
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\*Thank you to Vanja Oduber for her knowledge of Aruba's Carnival shared in her book *ARUBA CARNIVAL*.

\*\*Some images provide by *Bon Dia Aruba/Aruba Today*

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## What's your most memorable Carnival?

I asked a cross section of friends and members of the community this question. For many, it was not easy to choose just one—each, they claimed, was special and unique. But with a little prodding, I was able to record some of their fond memories...

*"It was 25 years ago. We were a group of fifteen teenaged friends, fully convinced we had the know-how to form our own Carnival group...so of course we did! We designed our costumes, built our own road piece from scratch, and spent days and very late nights arguing, working, and laughing. We bit the road in cancan costumes—we were on top of the world...that is, until the wheel of our road piece flew off just 20 minutes into the parade. It should have meant the end, but the night was young and so were we. We left the road piece behind as we continued on; not a single minute was wasted. Years later, the leader of our crazy group, Joselin Croes, became one of the pioneers of the Champagne Carnival Group."*

**Liza Blok-Ponse**

*"My most memorable Carnival experience was last year, Carnival 59, when I celebrated my birthday during the San Nicolas Grand Parade. It was electric. All Carnival bands, like Youth XTreme, Upgrade, Oreo, Le Groove, D' Licious, and others, paused for a moment to sing 'Happy Birthday.' It was indeed a super special day, and my friends and I had a blast at Hollywood Bar. I must say that my favorite Carnival activities are in San Nicolas."*

**Ronchie de Cuba**

*"Carnaval 50—that was when some friends and I made a costume for our friend Rosa for the Señora Carnaval—and it won Best Costume! The whole event was a scream, but winning that prize was the icing on the cake!"*

**Nancy Breta**

*"It was 2008...after always going with big, heavy shoulder pieces in previous Carnivals, designer Gerard Haley made a costume that was so eye-catching with glittery silver and hot-pink details, but most important—it was so easy to wear and dance in. Our group had great chemistry that year, and everything just flowed...the response from the crowds—we looked damn fabulous!"*

**Suzi Gnecco**

*"Carnaval 50 was the best for me. I went with my most expensive, big colorful costume with my Carnival dancing partner, Alvin Koolman. We were in Valero Group and our road piece did not make it for the San Nicolas parade, so Alvin and I had to represent that particular section alone. It was dancing straight without any break. Wawwww...so many pictures were taken of us, and the energy we felt from the people on the side was incredible. I felt like a queen!"*

**Liesje Seraus**

*"It really goes back to the first time I joined Los Laga Bai in 1999 when we went with a costume that was supposed to look like space invaders. It wasn't our costume that did it for me—it was the music, dancing, the people, and the entire Carnival ambiance that has had me booked ever since. Another sentimental Carnival was the year I involved my daughter. We worked on a road piece for the*

*kids until 6 am on the day of the San Nicolas Children's Parade, rushed home to shower, and pushed the road piece for two parades in a row...but it was so much fun to watch the kids having fun!"*

**Barbara Nieuwmeyer Bregita**

*"I joined up with my friends Jerusba and Glennie for Carnival 50...we had the greatest fun ever! The three of us went to almost all the Carnival events. Our motto was always looking good—meaning drink to have fun, not to become drunk. That year we joined the SETAR Carnival Group, which was not a luxury group but had the best music ever. For us, when joining a group, the music is very important because we are in it to dance!"*

**Amayra Boukhoudt**

*"Every year brings new excitements—new songs and colorful costumes with lots of fantasy—but the 56th year was special to me because I was joined by my American friends...unforgettable!"*

**Marcia Guest**

*"Carnaval is my favorite season, no doubt! The music and dancing brings a joy that's indescribable! The road jams from the '80s were the best."*

**Yxselle Giel**

*"My most memorable Carnival is probably my first, as a spectator on the side of the road...wow, it blew me away. The following year I was all in, dressed in a futuristic silver space suit with pink feathers. It was an intoxicating experience.*

*Over the following years I hopped among several groups,*



and loved Los Laga Bai, Let It All Hang Out, the best. I believe I spent the '90s documenting Carnival as a press photographer with primitive, first-generation digital cameras...alas, all of those pictures are now gone, lost in one of my many computer crashes.

I look forward to the Torch Parade and to the Jouvert Morning happening each year, representing all that is wonderful, carefree, and joyful in Aruba."

Rona Coster

"My mother involved me in Carnival before I could walk. In 1994, I was elected as the 'Joyita' (Child Queen) of Aruba Tivoli Club. All the members of the Tivoli would gather at the club—we were a big, Carnival-loving family. I was so excited and remember staying up late watching my parents and their friends on the floor, building and decorating the float, making the costumes, and testing the lights while listening to Carnival music on the radio. It brought everyone together. I slept in glitter and woke up in glitter for weeks!"

Larissa Bermudez Bolaños 🇮🇵



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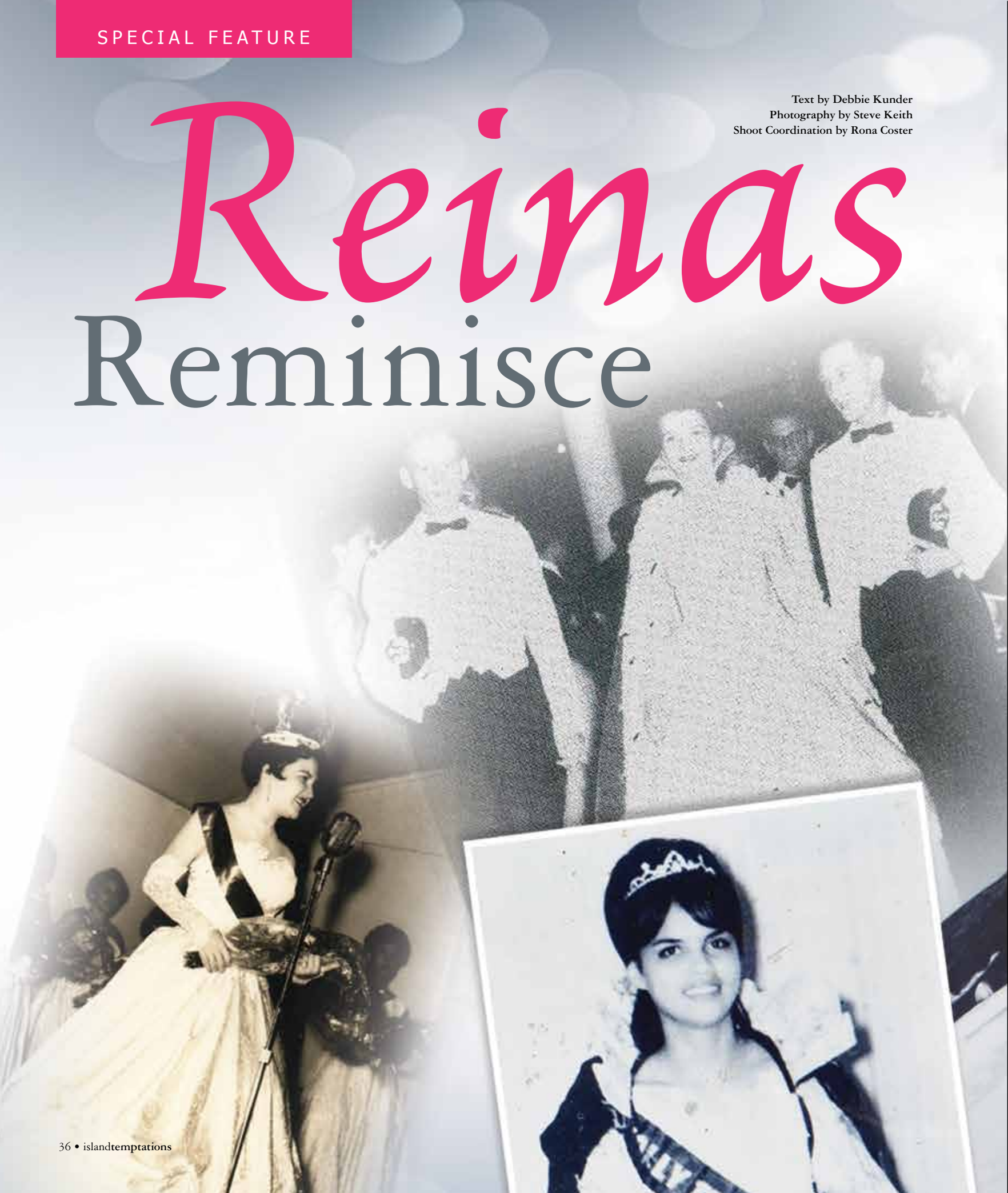
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Text by Debbie Kunder  
Photography by Steve Keith  
Shoot Coordination by Rona Coster

# Reinas

## Reminisce






# S

ince 1955, young women across the Island have been competing for perhaps the most prestigious title of the Aruban Carnival season—Carnaval Queen! Over the years, the path to the crown has remained more or less the same: each club, organization, or district on the Island elects its own queen, who then goes on to compete at the islandwide Carnaval Queen Election for the ultimate title. But other aspects of the queen election have certainly evolved over time.

For starters, two other categories were added in 1964 and 1976—the youth category and the children's category, respectively. Also, elections in the early days were far simpler and starchier than they are today. Then, grace and charm were the characteristics that won a girl the crown. Long white gowns and formal presentations were standard. Strict rules had to be followed; as late as the 1970s, girls were disqualified for baring their shoulders. But then some provocative, tradition-

defying trends were introduced in the '80s, steering the queen elections in the direction of what they are today—incredibly spectacular (and expensive!) affairs filled with vibrant color, ornate gowns and costumes, and perfectly choreographed performances.

What better way, we thought, to tell this rich history of Aruba's Carnaval queens than to profile some of them. We put out our feelers to track down as many past queens (plus a few first runners-ups and other standout candidates) as we could, and found 20 of them. Some of them are still every much the exuberant personalities they were on stage. Others have settled into impressive careers with the confidence gained in part from their past coronations. But all of their stories, from Natasha Felix's game-changing rooster costume to Shannon Lopez Penha's 100-person stage performance, delighted and entertained us, and we hope they do the same for you as well.



## Enid Croes-Marugg Carnaval Queen, 1963

Earning the Carnaval Queen crown in 1963, Enid hails from that early era when the queen elections were simple and stately. “It was more queen-like back then; we had to use a very specific wave to salute the public,” Enid explains. She recalls that during the election, she was running against a strong opponent, but she vowed to simply be herself and ended up winning (the crown...and a little white Fiat!), learning an invaluable lesson that she has carried with her throughout her life.

Poised, confident, and eloquent, Enid takes on ever much the queenly presence today at the age of 70 as she presumably did back in ‘63 on the stage. These qualities were doubtlessly honed during her 30 years as a businesswoman on the Island and her 50 years of volunteer work, including her participation in Quota International of Aruba.

Enid believes that Aruba’s Carnaval season is a beautiful and colorful period, an expression of creativity. She hopes to spread the message to youths that it can be thoroughly enjoyed without the heavy emphasis on alcohol consumption and barely-there costumes.



## Antje Bruin Youth Carnaval Queen, 1966

Winning the title of Carnaval Queen was apparently the female specialty in Antje’s family: her mother was the very first Carnaval Queen on Aruba; her sister, daughter, and niece all became queens; and Antje herself was named Youth Carnaval Queen in 1966. Not much had changed since three years earlier—the contestants were still required to follow strict etiquette rules on stage in their white bridal dresses—but the rest of Antje’s story is certainly unique. As the newly crowned Youth Queen, Antje was preparing to participate in the Grand Carnaval Parade in Oranjestad—the highlight event of the entire Carnaval season. Unfortunately, her road piece malfunctioned, and she was terribly injured. She was immediately rushed to the hospital and therefore sadly missed the parade.

Antje has always been involved in the community. For 17 years, she served the Island’s tourism industry at the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association. Today, Antje continues to be involved in Carnaval as a member of the Aruban Carnaval Foundation (Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval, or SAC).



## Jeanette Lopez-Henriquez Carnaval Queen, 1971

Like her predecessors, Jeanette recalls the fear of “missing the chair” on stage. “We weren’t allowed to turn our backs to the audience before sitting down. Instead, we had to slowly back up towards our chair, blindly feel the edge with our legs, and then elegantly sit down on the edge. When the spotlight was no longer on us, we could safely scooch back into the chair,” explains Jeanette. But following such old-school rules of etiquette had its payoff. Not only did Jeanette ride into the election venue in a convertible car, but like the other queens of her time, she also won a car as her grand prize. Usually a serious person, Jeanette certainly beamed that night!

After many years of working for Gandelman, one of the Island’s most respected jewelers, Jeanette dramatically changed her career to teaching. Today, she absolutely adores teaching Spanish to 5th and 6th graders. Her 11-month-old grandson is also keeping her very busy.

## Natasha Felix Youth Carnaval Queen, 1984

We now jump to the ‘80s, when Natasha Felix’s win became a game changer. It all started when she won the queen election held by her school, the San Nicolas branch of Colegio Arubano, known for its fun and not-so-serious approach to Carnaval. She then went on to win the election at the school’s main campus in Oranjestad, earning the privilege of representing Colegio Arubano in Aruba’s Youth Queen Election.

Natasha and her supporters felt that Carnaval should be fun and full of life and color, and they wanted to make this point—they wanted to shock! Eschewing the big dress and the prim-and-proper comportment that had always been expected at queen elections, Natasha brought an upbeat presence to the stage in a highly unorthodox rooster-emblazoned costume designed by Evelino Fingal (the artist who designed Aruban banknotes) and won the crown. More importantly, though, she helped pioneer the modern era of elections. As other girls followed her lead in later competitions, the traditional bridal dresses and formal presentations were increasingly—and eventually completely—displaced by colorful costumes and shows featuring dancing and music. We can certainly tip our hats (or better yet, our head pieces) to Natasha for helping to plant the seed for the queen elections we know and love today. And that costume...even now, when Colegio Arubano’s candidate is being announced on stage, she is said to be representing Co-co-co-legio!

## Adriane de Cuba Youth Carnival Queen, 1986

Representing Caribe Club, Adriane de Cuba won the title of Youth Queen when she was 16 years old. Adriane recalls how excited her cousin Ronchie de Cuba—one of Aruba's foremost fashion designers—and her mother were when she was announced Youth Queen. As she herself was celebrating on stage ("I jumped up and down 13 times"), both Ronchie and her mother were crying and carrying on so much that they toppled over in the excitement.

Today, Adriane works as a hairdresser. She is still an enthusiastic Carnivalista and participates with the Los Laga Bai (Let's Let Loose) Carnival group, which she favors for its creativity.

## Jerusha Rasmijn Carnaval Queen, 1987

What Jerusha Rasmijn remembers most about being crowned Aruba's Carnaval Queen in 1987 was what came after. She went to Miami, St. Maarten, Rotterdam, and Belgium to represent Aruba in various Carnival parades. SAC also sent her to represent Aruba at the Miss Caribbean Queen pageant in St. Maarten in 1988. In 1987, she was involved in a project through the Aruba Tourism Bureau to promote Aruba to the Japanese market. As Jerusha points out, she was crowned at a time when the Carnaval Queen had the opportunity to take part in many different events, often serving as an ambassador for the Island. She adds, "The role of a Carnaval Queen was even more important than the role of Miss Aruba."

These exciting experiences she enjoyed during her reign left quite an impression on Jerusha, nudging her into a career in tourism just three years after her crowning. Today, Jerusha is the events manager for the Aruba Convention Bureau, a department of the Aruba Tourism Authority.





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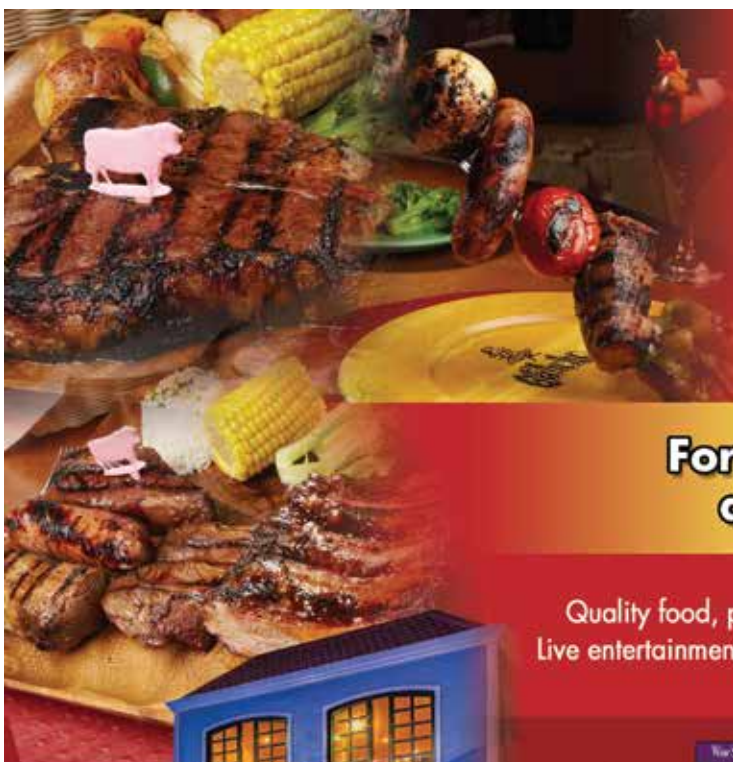
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## Suzette Croes Carnaval Queen, 1989

Suzette Croes won the crown for the district of Savaneta when she was 17 years old. She recalls that the experience was certainly a confidence builder for her, but mostly, she remembers it as a special time when family and friends came together to help and support her. And her prize? A bank account of 1000 Aruban florins in her name. Not bad! (Alas, cars were not being awarded as prizes by this point.)

Today, Suzette is not involved in Carnaval. She is a devout Christian, and as she points out, “I don’t go to the Carnaval jump-ups anymore; instead, I jump up for God.”



## Geraldine Erasmus Carnaval Queen, 1990

In 1990, Geraldine Erasmus proudly became the first girl to win the Carnaval Queen crown for her district, Tanki Leendert. Geraldine Erasmus was initially encouraged to compete for the crown by her designer brother, Jairo Erasmus, who also designed her Carnaval costume (seamstress was Geraldine’s godmother, Dina Donker). But it was Geraldine’s dress, decorated with small mirrors, that was the highlight of the evening. “My dress was inspired by a dream of Elizabeth Bikker. It was designed and elaborated by Johnny and Dika Fingal, and the seamstress was Dina Donker.” Geraldine recalls standing for hours as the mirror pieces were painstakingly applied to the gown.

Geraldine’s moment in the spotlight didn’t end there. One year after winning the crown, Geraldine went on to participate in the Miss Caribbean Queen pageant in St. Maarten, where she earned the title of Miss Photogenic.

Geraldine feels that Aruba’s Carnaval is a valuable asset to the Island’s tourism industry. Today, she continues to be an enthusiastic Carnavalista, changing groups each year to spice things up. Look for her this year with the TOB group. (And keep an eye out for her seven-year-old princess, Alysha—a future Carnaval Queen for sure!)



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## Monica Saladin Carnaval Queen, 1992

Like many of our past queens, Monica comes from a Carnaval family. Her sisters took part in the elections, and after finishing high school in the States, she decided to join the fun on stage. For the 20 years previous to '92, the club she was representing, Tivoli Club, had not been awarded the crown (purportedly due to political and jealousy issues), so Monica had no expectations of winning. Consequently, when another girl was pronounced the queen, Monica was not surprised. She was, however, confused, along with the rest of the girls on stage, by the chaos that ensued behind the stage. It was soon discovered that the Prince and Pancho of the election, wanting their own candidate from Santa Cruz to become queen, had falsely announced this candidate as the winner. The state of chaos finally came to an end one hour later when the president of the jury boldly stepped up on stage to announce that the actual winner was indeed Monica. Although under unfortunate circumstances, this particular election became a historical moment.

Today, Monica works, in her own playful words, as an executive home engineer. She is the proud mother of a 19-year-old daughter and a 14-year-old son. Will her daughter ever run for queen? Probably not. Monica laments that running as a candidate in today's queen elections is such an expensive endeavor—so expensive, in fact, that few girls can actually afford it, leading to a dwindling number of candidates. But Monica still loves Carnaval and especially enjoys helping kids decorate their road pieces.

## Rachel Kraayvanger Carnaval Queen, 1993

Rachel is a whirlwind of personality, so we were certainly surprised to find out that winning the title wasn't part of her plan at all. Her mom had originally entered her in the Coastal Club's local election, hoping to lift the spirits of a young girl struggling with her parents' recent separation. So when Rachel won the local election, she was caught totally off-guard with just one week to prepare for the islandwide competition.

A singer and performer in shows her whole life, Rachel wowed the audience when she sang her speech. Given the unplanned nature of her involvement in the election, she was certain she wouldn't win. But she was proven wrong when she was crowned at midnight, just before the stadium lights went out!

Rachel explains that while she enjoyed the competition, what she most enjoyed was the preparation—her family and friends who believed in her all coming together to support her. Today, Rachel lends a hand in Carnaval as a judge in the big parades. In her everyday life, she is a speech therapist at the local hospital.

## Osayra Romero First Runner-Up for Carnival Queen, 1995

Osayra Romero just missed winning the title of Carnival Queen in 1995 as first runner-up, but title or no title, her part in the election was memorable, if not legendary. Perhaps no other contestant brought as much spunk and energy to the competition as Osayra. Osayra explains, "It's not about size...it's about spirit!" Osayra became the poster girl for curvaceous queens. Sponsored and coached by local designer Ronchie de Cuba, she challenged the prevailing beauty-pageant nature of the elections and promoted what she felt the elections should really be about: celebrating and honoring the girl who best embodies the lively spirit of Carnival, regardless of her weight. Her participation was certainly an inspiration to young girls of all sizes.

At the election, Osayra represented the Popcorn Dancers, a troupe of performers who regale island guests at hotels as well as the Bon Bini Festival. She is still a performing member of the group today.

## Sulaika Croes Youth Carnival Queen, 1996

Sulaika Croes is no stranger to the stage. Since she was six years old, she has competed in countless competitions both locally (including Miss Teen Aruba—second-place win) and internationally, usually showcasing her vocal talents. So she was well prepared to take the crown during the Youth Carnival Queen Election in 1996 at age 14. Representing the district of Piedra Plat, Sulaika not only won the crown, but she also won Best Show.

Today, Sulaika works as a teacher and is mother to three children. One of her daughters, also a singer, was the first runner-up in the 2011 Children's Carnival Queen Election. She seems to be following in her mother's footsteps, wouldn't you say?

## Shannon Lopez Penha Winner of Best Show and Best Costume, 1997

Talk to someone who attended the queen elections of 1997 and you're guaranteed to hear all about the show performed by the candidate representing the district of Oranjestad, Shannon Lopez Penha. In fact, Shannon put on one of the most spectacular shows ever performed during the queen elections on Aruba. The performance carried a Cirque du Soleil theme, featuring 100 performers (including stilt walkers), horses, ponies, and fireworks, the whole production lasting half an hour! Although she didn't nab the crown, Shannon deservedly won Best Show and Best Costume.

As if her performance wasn't enough drama for one evening, Shannon's road piece—the one she was planning to use during the Grand Carnival Parade in Oranjestad just a few nights later—was sabotaged only hours after the election. She and her supporters, however, worked diligently to make a new one in time for the parade.

## Joanne Dirksz First Runner-Up for Youth Carnival Queen, 1999

We love how Joanne Dirksz wholeheartedly embraced her first runner-up win at the 1999 Youth Carnival Queen Election. "It gave me confidence in myself," explains Joanne. "After this election, I became more positive and also saw life differently. I think you can achieve anything if you go for it and be positive. And I started to apply this in my daily life!"

Joanne also appreciates how the election brought together all her family and friends, creating a special bonding experience. Her school friends (Joanne represented her high school, Colegio Arubano, at the election) were actually part of her stage performance. And Joanne won't soon forget Mr. Capelo—a math teacher who was on the Colegio Arubano Carnival Committee—and how he coordinated her cheering section with his signature whistle and megaphone. Joanne is pretty sure all the past queens from Colegio Arubano remember this beloved supporter as well.



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## Deyanira Janssen-Frank Carnaval Queen, 1999

Deyanira is a natural-born pageant girl. Not only did she win the title of Carnaval Queen in 1999, but she also won Miss Aruba in 2001 and participated in Miss Universe in 2002. What Deyanira remembers most vividly from 1999 is that the Grand Carnaval Parade in Oranjestad was on Valentine's Day. She recalls how the streets were lined with well-wishers offering her roses.

But pageants aren't Deyanira's only specialty. She is the owner of her own marketing firm, and her work has taken her all over the Caribbean. She has gained valuable insights into the varying successes (and failures) of other Caribbean islands and years to make good use of these insights here in Aruba. We think she'll get her chance, as she just stepped over into politics this year. We wish her all the best!



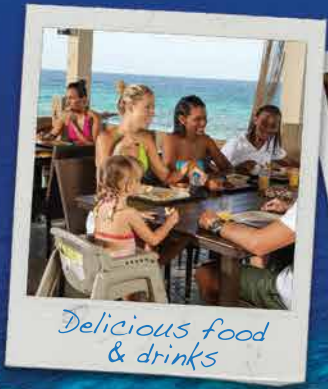
## Dyantha Maduro Carnaval Queen, 2003

Dyantha reminds us of an exotic Spanish gypsy, so it seems rather fitting that this winner of the 2003 Carnaval Queen Election danced flamenco for her stage performance. She explains, "I performed flamenco to represent the Island's Spanish-Aruban culture." But when asked what she remembers most from the competition, she answers, "Everyone working together and creating."

Dyantha is a dancer. In 2003, she studied abroad at a dance academy to become a dance teacher. She then went on to earn a master's degree in arts and education. Today, this ex-queen teaches art and culture at Colegio Arubano and Juliana School.







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## Ziziane Flemming Carnaval Queen, 2004

Ziziane Flemming grew up among the tassels, sequins, and feathers of Carnaval—literally. Not only is her aunt the illustrious Marjorie Flemming—a candidate for Carnaval Queen in 1989 who was disqualified for making her stage entrance sitting atop an upright fire ladder, but whose tradition-bucking move nonetheless played a major role in ushering in the modern era of elections—but her father is the renowned Carnavalist John Flemming, whose name is practically synonymous with Aruba's Carnaval. He has founded a few Carnaval groups of his own, he is on the SAC committee, and most recently, he is heading up the MetaSocial Club for Carnaval 60.

It was in 2004 that John created the Dream Team Carnaval group. Although Ziziane has been wearing a Carnaval head piece since the age of four, it was in 2004, at age 17, that she won the crown for the Dream Team during Carnaval 50. Earning the crown at such a young age was certainly a confidence booster for Ziziane, and she grew a lot during the experience. Now a high school teacher, she is helping her students to grow in a positive way.

Oh, and be sure to keep an eye out this year for Ziziane's sister, Zuria, who is a Carnaval Queen hopeful.

## Nabhilach de Palm Carnaval Queen, 2005

When Nabhilach de Palm won the queen election at her school, EPI, it was totally unexpected. At first, she wasn't interested in going to the islandwide Carnaval queen competition, but not wanting to let her friends and school down, she decided to go on and compete. She had only one day to prepare for the big election... which she won! It was the first time that EPI's representative won the Carnaval Queen title.

It's no surprise that this girl is in the spotlight in her everyday life as well. She is a model (she has modeled for *Island Temptations*), TV host, and owner/operator of The Best of ARUBA, which awards island businesses for excellence and publishes the results in an annual magazine.



**Hilyann Croes**  
**Children’s Carnaval Queen, 1999**  
**Youth Carnaval Queen, 2006**  
**First Runner-up for Carnaval Queen, 2010**

“I’m actually pretty shy and awkward around people,” claims Hilyann. But on stage, she feels completely comfortable, almost like a different person—“I become a character.” It’s this love for the stage that helps explain how Hilyann won the crown twice—once in 1999 (children’s election) and once in 2006 (youth election)—and became first runner-up in the 2010 Carnaval Queen Election.

Being a singer has given Hilyann other opportunities to be on stage. She has performed at the Bon Bini Festival at Fort Zoutman, which gives island guests a taste of Aruban song and dance. She has also performed at local cultural events, such as Dande and Dera Gai festivals.

Today, Hilyann is a full-time economics student at the University of South Florida.



**Maribel Andrade**  
**Children’s Carnaval Queen, 1994**  
**Youth Carnaval Queen, 2002**  
**Carnaval Queen, 2010**

And here we have our triple crown winner! Yes, Maribel, now 26, won the crown three times—once for Kids in Action, once for Pan Cayente, and once for TOB. And it’s not surprising, really. What she loves most about the elections, in addition to the period of preparation, is being on stage. She loves being the center of attention putting on a show...and she’s obviously good at it!

She’s so good at it that she now trains queen candidates (and in fact was doing so even before winning the big election in 2010). She teaches the girls how to talk, dance, and compose themselves on stage. Meanwhile, she is studying at IPA to become a teacher. ¶



# The Masterminds Behind the Blueprint of Carnival

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick  
Photography by Steve Keith

**A**ruba's humble foray into the celebration of Carnival six decades ago was marked with small groups of revelers parading in modest costumes, usually hand sewn by family and friends, often constructed from scraps of materials, decorated with minor bling, and constructed in one-size-fits-all fashion. Today, many groups' costumes are works of art, with months of planning and construction leading up to the final presentation on the streets during the Carnival parade season.

The architects behind these spectacular productions are the Island's Carnival designers. These designers are adept at synergizing both the artistic and practical. From an imaginative standpoint, they are charged with creating unique, show-stopping designs, typically sketched by the designer and used as the blueprint for the theme of the group. But beyond aesthetics, these designers must temper the creative with a knowledge of textiles and materials (and their accessibility on the Island) and how they can realistically be applied so that form and function harmonize in a costume that can, firstly, be actualized on the human body,

and secondly, survive the wear and tear of hours of dancing along the parade routes.

So, how does a designer begin the process? Typically, a Carnival group approaches the designer with a theme—sometimes the group has a distinct idea of what materials and color palates it would like to see applied, and may even come with a collection of ideas and visuals to give the designer further inspiration. And sometimes the designers merely have a broad theme and then build the entire concept from scratch.

Initial sketches are presented to the group for further collaboration and tweaking until a final design is presented. Usually, each group has several designs created under its theme to give its participants a variety of options to choose from, which also yields a more dynamic overall end result for the group presentation on the road.

Currently, there are perhaps a dozen seasoned, recognized designers working today who have contributed to many memorable costumes and road pieces in Aruba's Carnivals over the past two decades. Featured here are six of them, each with their own brand of flair and style.



## Edgar Giovanni Kock

**Designing roots:** Edgar feels his artistic talents were an innate gift. As a child, he had a natural ability for drawing, especially the human body. He excelled at art classes focusing on this, which developed his understanding of the human anatomy from a technical perspective. Incorporating this understanding into design has helped him create designs that are both eye pleasing and functional.

**First Carnaval design:** Edgar designed both a dress and costume for Aruba's 1998 Youth Carnaval Queen, Nizana Solognier. The costume took the title of Best Costume in the pageant and quickly put Edgar on the map as a standout designer.

**Most memorable designs:** Edgar had an impressive run of Best Costume wins in the Youth Carnaval Queen category, winning five titles in a row from 2001 through 2005. His 2005 design, created for Youth Queen Alina Mansur, was subsequently worn by Nuraisa Lispier in the Miss International pageant in Tokyo, Japan, where it won the Best National Costume title.

**Where to see his designs for Carnaval 60:** Edgar will have pieces in sections for two groups, Champagne and Touch of Brazil, and a few queen candidates will be wearing his designs.



## Michael Douglas

**Design roots:** Michael could almost always be found sketching as a child. He went on to polish his skills at the Rotterdam Art School in the Netherlands, where he studied fashion design.

**First Carnaval design:** Upon his return from school in the Netherlands, Michael's first professional design was for Carnaval queen competitor Iselle Danje in 1995.

**Most memorable design:** Michael designed a massive road piece with intricate detail for 2009's Carnaval Queen, Alina Mansur, who represented the Champagne Carnaval Group. "I really went all out on this design, and was thrilled when they matched the actual piece detail-for-detail to my complex sketch," explains Michael.

**Where to see his designs for Carnaval 60:** Touch of Brazil, Champagne, Majestic, and Le Groove will all have sections designed by Michael.



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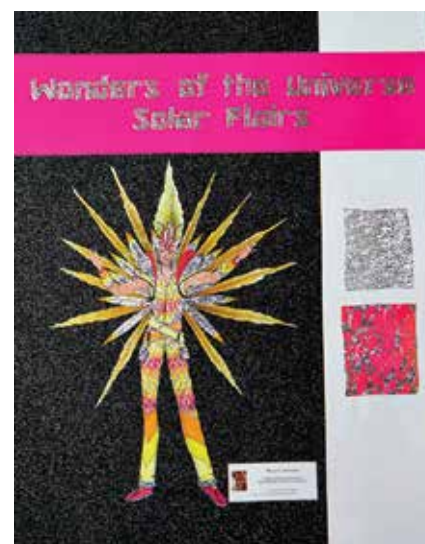
## Rhona Lemminga

Design roots: "It's in my blood," exclaims Rhona, crediting her mother for passing on the talent for drawing to her and her brother, Ramyro. Now a fashion instructor at local school EPB/Hato (she studied at the Fashion Academy Marja van Riel in Rotterdam), Rhona is also the artist behind many of Aruba's colorful postage stamps.

First Carnaval design: Rhona's first set of designs was for The Creators Carnaval Group for Carnaval 55 in 2009. The experience was intense, as she was called upon at the last minute by a friend who knew she had a degree in fashion. She was given one week to deliver six female and three male designs, along with road and body pieces. This last-minute assignment set the stage for Rhona's starring role as one of the Island's busiest Carnaval designers.

Her process: With her reputation as a trusted designer who delivers on a timely basis, Rhona gets busier and busier each Carnaval season. Each design takes typically one to two weeks to develop, or longer if it is a complex project. Her favorite designs to create are those where she is given free reign to design concepts from scratch.

Where to see her designs for Carnaval 60: Look for her designs in Touch of Brazil's Chinese New Year section, as well as several Dushi Carnaval Group sections under the group's "Wonders of the Universe" theme.





## Andrew Curiel

Design roots: Andrew caught the Carnival bug early on as a child, participating in the parades for as long as he can remember. He even had a part-time professional gig as a dancer with the Coco Rico Dancers, performing at shows at various resorts. His understanding of the design of costumes came to fruition when he started modifying and then eventually creating his own costumes for performances.

Unlike the other designers featured, Andrew's background is in makeup artistry, with much of his training and experience coming from theatre-makeup schools in New York and from his work as a consultant for such brands as MAC. "Through my work in the makeup industry, I am confronted with style, aesthetic, and design on a daily basis," shares Andrew, "so even though I do not have a formal design background, I love to create overall concepts for Carnival." He is self-taught in the art of sketching, but these days collaborates with artists like Rhona Lemminga and Michael Douglas, who help to put his ideas on paper.

His first Carnival design: One of the earliest he can recall was for Carnival 40 for the group Santa Cruz Uni, specifically for the section Anochi Tur Pushi Ta Preto (At Night All Cats Are Black).

Most memorable design: "Asking this is like asking someone to choose their favorite child!" exclaims Andrew. "They are all memorable for different reasons," he adds. One of his most recent designs was the individual costume "King of the Ocean," which he personally wore in 2010 with the Champagne Carnival Group. "The amount of labor and resources that went into it, as well as the overwhelming feedback, makes it a standout for me," he explains.

Where to see his designs for Carnival 60: Keep an eye out for Dushi Carnival Group's Stardust section to see Andrew's designs.



Andrew not only designs costumes, but he also often sees the design through from start to finish. Here, Andrew collaborates with welder Clinton Quant on the execution of his Stardust design (left). The designer also participates in the parades.



## Ryan Maduro

**Design roots:** Ryan grew up in a creative environment, watching his father find pleasure as a hobbyist designing and creating furniture and even piñatas for local celebrations. Ryan first explored his own talents back in primary school. “I was always the one helping the girl elected class queen to represent us at the school’s queen election, and looking back at my grades in school, it was the art classes that I scored the highest marks in,” remembers Ryan.

The designer has no formal training in art or design. “My early influences include Sylvia Lourens—I participated in her group in the children’s parades and really enjoyed being a part of the process to create our costumes...eventually I was mentored by Johnny Fingal, who took me under his wing and helped me develop my talents in designing,” says Ryan.

**His first Carnaval design:** His first official design was for Esso Club in the late 1980s—he created costumes to pair with the group’s road piece under the fantasy theme of “Aruban Indians.” In 1991, Johnny Fingal gathered a group of up-and-coming designers, which included Ryan along with Omayra de Cuba and Marcia Stamper, for the Shell Carnaval Group. The group of designers is credited with introducing the concept of “focus pieces,” which are today known as shoulder pieces.

**Most memorable design:** In 1997, Ryan’s “Mighty Vesuvius” design was the winning costume at the International Carnival Costume Festival. In 2001, his design for Carnaval Queen Rachele Oduber won the Best Costume title, and in 2013, he helped Royal Carnaval Group win Group of the Year for Carnaval 59 with his designs for the group’s “Return to Shangri-La” theme.

**Where to see his designs for Carnaval 60:** Ryan is the exclusive designer for MetaSocial Club. <sup>††</sup>



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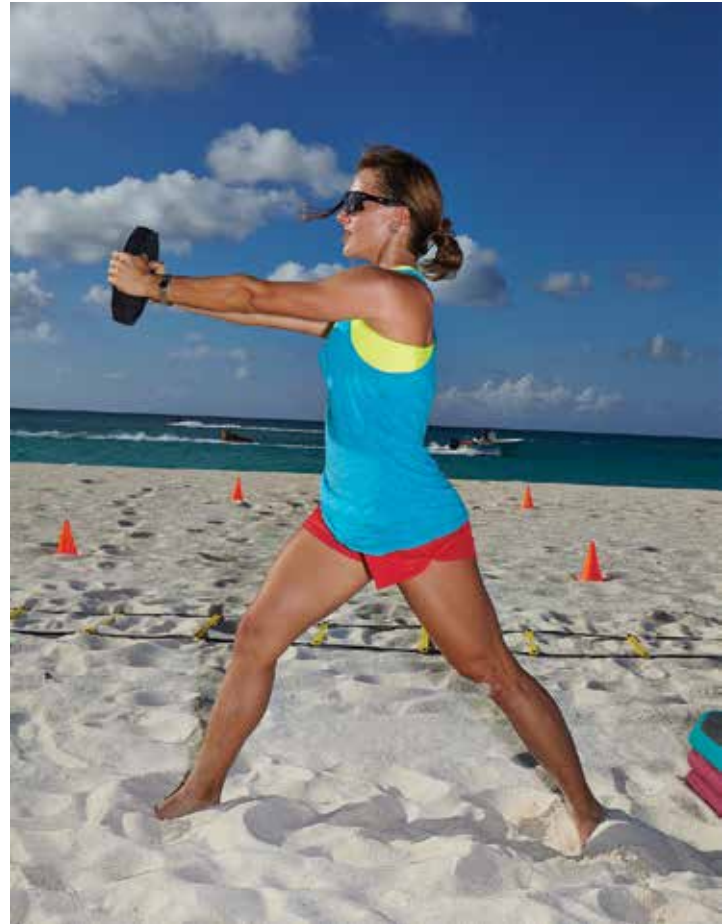


For many of us, Carnival is approached like an athletic event. I can hear some of the snickering now as I write this. Sure, a typical reveler enjoys a few alcoholic libations along the way and is fueled by a fried pastechi or two offered to them along the parade route, but for those of you who have never participated in the parades, hear me out.

The grand parades of San Nicolas and Oranjestad can typically take four to five hours to walk...err, make that jump and dance. Imagine a five-hour aerobics class—in the hot sun, with a head piece and shoulder piece (some of those shoulder pieces can weigh more than 30 pounds!) in tow. Now imagine doing that two days back-to-back.

Growing up I was always competing in sports—from swimming to track. I understand the importance of training for a competition, and I treat my preparations for Carnival no differently. Vanity, of course, also plays a role in this as well—many of the Carnival costumes leave lots of exposed skin and very little room to camouflage our flaws. Hence, every January, after the decadent indulgence of the holidays, the island gyms are bustling—treadmills in a constant whirl, Spinning and Zumba classes packed, and trainers booked from morning to night with clients eager to achieve that perfect Brazilian derriere.

This year I have ditched the gym in favor of a new fitness program developed by my trainer, Jennifer Coster (who also happens to be one of my partners in crime this Carnival—we, along with three other friends, are joining Andrew Curiel's Stardust section of Dushi Carnival Group). It's the ultimate island workout, and I am hooked! The training is an all-over, all-encompassing fitness express, and the best part—you just can't beat the view!



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**The workout:**

We start with a five-minute slow jog on the beach to get the muscles warmed up. Next, we typically plunge right into some high-intensity interval training (this form of cardio really amps up your overall calorie burn). Drills focusing on footwork are accomplished with a variety of combinations on what is known as a speed ladder. The speed ladder drills not only work your heart, but are also great for improving agility. I play a lot of beach tennis, and this is a great training tool for that sport as well.

Additional cardio exercises Jennifer incorporates include a series of hops and skips, the speed skater, butt kickers, and high-knee runs. To increase to another level of difficulty, she will add a belt with weights that drag behind (yes, your thighs will be screaming) and a parachute belted at the waist that provides resistance using Aruba's famous trade winds.

In between these cardio drills, we break for water (lots and lots of it!) and perform a series of strength and core moves using dumbbells and medicine balls, or simply using our own body weight. My favorite exercises are the plyometric variety. Plyometrics, also known as "plyos" or "jump training," require maximum effort from your heart and other muscles, and will help increase your speed and power while torching calories at the same time. A beach bonus—the sand not only provides added resistance, but is also a great shock absorber (i.e. easier on the knees) for what would normally be high-impact exercises in a regular gym.

After a cool down and good stretch, we often reward ourselves with a plunge into the sea. In total, the workout lasts about one hour and 15 minutes. ¶





Pictured is fitness trainer Jennifer Coster demonstrating some of her Beach Body Workout drills.

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# Aruba's Got a Thing for Tees

Art Direction and Text by Tina Causey-Bislick. Photography by Steve Keith. Shoot Coordination by Rona Coster.

The T-shirt—everyone's got at least one in their wardrobe. Debuting in 1913 as a functional necessity for the United States Navy as an accompanying undergarment for the sailor suit, the "tee" is second to none as the most versatile piece of clothing a century later.

By the 1950s, tees were not just for sailors and farmers plowing fields; all the cool cats were sporting white crews with cigarette packs rolled into the sleeves a la James Dean. The tee's rebellious spirit was embodied in the 1960s and early 1970s by tie-dyed versions in rainbows of psychedelic colors. Tees also became more than a fashion statement; they were sources of propaganda, often emblazoned with political and cultural statements on social issues relevant to those wearing them—do "Give peace a chance" and "Make love not war" sound familiar? And of course, the iconic symbol of the times—the peace sign—was a favorite of the then coming-of-age baby-boomer generation.

With the invasion of rock 'n' roll came concert and band tees—a trend that is still popular today. I purge my closet every year, but one item that will NEVER be put in the give-away pile is my black and silver-studded Led Zeppelin tee! And how many of us covet our Rolling Stones tee with the iconic lip and tongue logo?

Today, political statements are still being made on tees as well. In 2008, Barak Obama's presidential campaign poster, illustrated by Shepard Fairey, was reproduced in mass on tees sported across the nation by his supporters, with slogans like "Yes we can" and "Hope" appended.

Here in Aruba, a recent wave of graphic and iconic tees has emerged. These tees have become signature items for local retailers, offering T-shirt collectors a bit of local Aruban culture to add to their wardrobes.

One of Aruba's most oft-proclaimed Papiamentu words is "dushi" (translated literally as "sweet"), and is used to refer to someone as a sweetheart or indicate that something is delicious, great, or wonderful. In a nutshell, dushi is meant to put a positive emphasis on something or someone, and the word is found on many iconic Aruban tees.

*Bula Surf Shop's* popular slogan—"Dushi Yiu!"—launched a new era of souvenir tees on the Island. The Papiamentu expression (literally translated as "sweet child") is a slang term in the local surfing community

and refers to something as awesome, gnarly, or "sweet," summing up Bula's love of surfing and having fun. Surf shop owners Yair and David created the tees in 2003 shortly after the shop first opened. The shirts were originally made for the shop owners' friends in the Aruban surfing community. In a year's time, the iconic tees (and hats and bumper stickers) had taken off outside of the surf community, and tourists began coming into the shop to seek out the merchandise, wanting to take home something authentically Aruban. The owners are blown away by the success of the line, exclaiming, "There are now people around the world wearing our gear!"

The *JCMD Group*, a collaborative effort of several Aruban individuals, has found success with its "Just Call Me DUSHI" slogan tees (available in many island gift shops and airport shops) and the "I'm DUSHI and I Know It" apparel line (available exclusively at La Moderna on Mainstreet). Annoyed by the prevalence of souvenirs made in places like China and Jamaica with the word "Aruba" printed on them or an "Aruba" sticker slapped on them, the group felt there was an opportunity to create something indicative of the Island and its language. Combining English-language pop culture slogans with Aruba's language led to slogans that they feel are a fun and easy way for visitors to become familiar with Papiamentu and take back with them not only a great souvenir, but also something that represents the positive outlook and nature of the local people.

De Palm Tours also started a line of "dushi" shirts in their Coconuts retail shops in early 2013. Retail operations manager Liesje Seraus conceived the line of "Biba Dushi" (meaning "live sweetly") merchandise while traveling with friends to compete in an international beach tennis tournament. "We were proud to represent Aruba and we also wanted to teach our international beach tennis friends some Papiamentu phrases," she explains. Coconuts introduced T-shirts first, followed by hats, flip-flops, and even hoodies. The line has a great international following—especially in the Brazilian market.

Retail maven Jodi Tobman of The Salamander Group introduced the "Biba Lekker" line of merchandise in her *T.H. Palm & Company* store in late 2011. "When we were at the table discussing this line, I recalled a conversation I once had with a close friend of mine,

sharing with each other the wisdom of a spiritual concept—we have a shopping cart we wheel through our lives, and when we wake up each day we can choose to fill our cart with negative thoughts, or we can fill it with joy and contentment...and I always loved the expression 'biba lekker' ('life is good') because it is a descriptive of so many different elements in our daily lives that are positive," Jodi shares. The line is also available on Mainstreet at *Caribbean Clothing Company*.

Local artists and fashion designers are also making strides in the land of tees. Airbrush artist and custom painter Alberto Arrindell has always dreamed of having his own clothing line, and now his Area 297 Kustom Apparel line of merchandise showcases his arsenal of artistic talents honed over the years detailing bikes, cars, skateboards, and tattoos. His line of shirts, tank tops, and, as he puts it, "random cool stuff...whatever is hip at the moment" is custom designed beginning with sketches by Alberto, which are then transferred into a digital file and fine tuned by a graphic artist. Alberto also does his own printing in-house. Currently, *Area 297 Kustom Apparel* can be purchased at No Limit Street Wear and Basari Aruba. Alberto also does custom airbrush designs on request.

Artist, athlete, and now retailer Ricardo "Cado" de Lannoy opened *Salad Skate Shop* with longtime friend Dennis Schoneveld. The store's line of tees and hats are quickly snatched off shelves, not just by skateboarders but also by locals and tourists who are attracted to the brand's quirky style and humor. Cado was one of the creators of a popular line of local graphic tees, Ducks & Robots, and his unique style can now be found imprinted on the signature line at Salad Skate Shop.

Aruba's premier fashion designer, Ronchie de Cuba, has worked in many fashion genres—from swimwear to evening gowns—and in 2011 began his slogan line of tees, TRASHYTEES, available exclusively at *TRASH by Ronchie*. "I wanted to present a fashionable, comedic twist to T-shirts, with fun and fresh sayings in Papiamentu." The designer collaborates with Shaitza Oliviera on the graphics and prints the shirts here in Aruba.

So if you are looking to add to your arsenal of tees, you can easily stockpile some Aruban authenticity in just about any size, shape, color, style, and design! Pictured on the following pages are some of our faves. ▮



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# Elements

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**Beauty Team**  
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www.banjolux.com



**La Moderna**  
Caya G. F. Betico Croes 17  
Oranjestad, Aruba  
Phone: +297 582-1168



**T.H. Palm & Company**  
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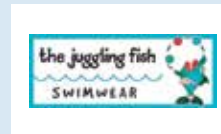
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## Tulip transforms into a casual brasserie

**T**he Tulip Restaurant, located at the MVC Eagle Beach Resort Aruba, underwent a transformation with new furniture, fresh paint, and, of course, a different menu. Renamed the Tulip Caribbean Brasserie, the charming garden restaurant is now a French-inspired eatery offering casual, all-day dining.

Patrons can choose to dine in the beautifully landscaped open-air courtyard, on the terrace overlooking the courtyard, or in the dining room. The eclectic mixture of French furnishings, rustic tables, contemporary lighting, and tropical accents creates a relaxing environment for business lunches, small intimate parties, or larger functions hosted in the courtyard.

Tulip Caribbean Brasserie's menu offers a flavorful combination of French, Dutch, and Caribbean cuisines at an excellent value. Menu highlights include:

- Tartare de Saumon Fumé au Gingembre (Smoked salmon tartare with ginger olive oil, sesame seeds, and orange vinaigrette, with a red radish and spicy avocado puree)



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- Escargots (Snails roasted in garlic-herb butter)
- Ceviche (Mahi-mahi marinated in lime juice with onions and cilantro)
- Bouillabaisse des Caraïbes (Rich stew of fish and shellfish from local waters)
- Côtelettes d'Agneau Grillées au Romaine (Char-grilled lamb chops au jus with fresh rosemary)
- Casserole Keshi Yena (Casserole of pulled

chicken in a tomato sauce with raisins and green olives, gratinéed with Gouda cheese)

Open daily for breakfast (7:30 AM – 10:00 AM), lunch (12:00 PM – 5:00 PM), and dinner (5:00 PM – 10:30 PM). Advance reservations are highly recommended and can be made via email at tulip@mvceaglebeach.aw or by phone at + (297) 587-0110.



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 Cel: + 297 734 7714

# Aruba Racquet Club reopens after extensive renovations



In November 2013, the Aruba Racquet Club reopened its doors after a broad renovation. The new club offers tennis lessons for all ages, various membership levels—from single adult to family packages—and the High Performance Tennis Academy. New to the club are four beach-tennis courts, a new infinity pool, a restaurant, and amenities that include eight tennis courts, a futsal court, a basketball court, a gym, and a certified tennis and fitness staff.

Aruba Racquet Club's main goal is to raise the level of tennis on Aruba, and to achieve this ambition, the management recently formed a partnership with Nick Bollettieri and IMG Academy, the premier athletic academy in the world. Bollettieri has had a hand in developing ten players who reached the #1 ranking in the world.

More than just a tennis facility, Aruba Racquet Club will offer activities to interest all members of the family and will provide a beautiful, exclusive destination to socialize and enjoy leisure pursuits in a safe and relaxed environment.

For more information, visit the IMG Academy website: [www.imgacademy.com](http://www.imgacademy.com)





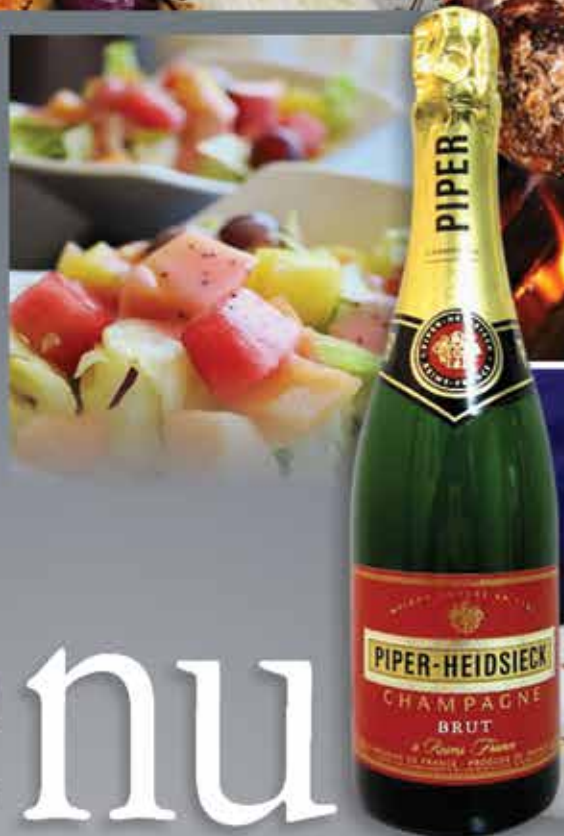
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**STARTING SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> WEEKNIGHTS MONDAY TO FRIDAY AT 7:15 PM**





# Menu *temptations*

RESTAURANT GUIDE

On the following pages, a selection of our favorite restaurants & menus

# Menu Temptations

## MEXICADO



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Mexicado is an intimate, friendly dining experience environment featuring a selection of regional dishes showcasing Mexico's most inspiring flavors. The truly authentic restaurant offers an array of elevated market food items, an extensive tequila selection and a list of handcrafted tequila cocktails. Outdoor lounge, tequila bar and restaurant seating available.

### Start your meal off with...

#### QUESO FUNDIDO CON CHORIZO

Melted cheese, crumbled chorizo, flour tortillas

#### BORRACHO SHRIMP SALAD

Avocado filled with shrimp, chipotle cocktail sauce with tequila

#### EMPANADAS DE CARNE

Corn pastries filled with marinated beef, black beans and salsa roja

#### CEVICHE

Colima Ceviche, Ceviche de Camarones al Tamarindo, Alcachofas y Zetas Ceviche

### Main Attractions

#### CASUELA A LA VERACRUZANA

Red snapper fillet in banana leaves braised Veracruz style with tomato, capers, olives, bell peppers and herbs

#### MOLE DE OLLA

Traditional beef stew with seasonal vegetables and epazote

#### CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

Rolled tortillas with shredded chicken, queso blanco, red sauce, sour cream and charro beans

#### FAJITAS CHICKEN, CARNE OR VEGETABLE

Poblano Chili, cilantro, onion, peppers and pico de gallo

#### GRILLED MAHI-MAHI

Chipotle mayonnaise, avocado, cabbage on corn tortillas

### Desserts

#### PASTEL TRES LECHES

Sponge cake soaked with sweetened milk

#### CHURROS

Mexican cruller with chocolate sauce

### and much more...

All prices are in U.S. dollars. A 15% service charge + 1.5% local tax will be added to your bill. Prices and menu items are subject to change without notice

### Dining Information

#### HOURS

Dinner daily except Mondays, 6pm-10:30pm

#### RESERVATIONS

Please call the Hyatt Regency +297-586-1234 Ext 36  
www.hyattregencyaruba.com



## FOOTPRINTS BEACH GRILL



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Celebrate another perfect day in paradise with an unforgettable dinner at Footprints. This exclusive restaurant—only a limited number tables are available each evening—offers fine dining while you wiggle your toes in the soft white sand. Enjoy the sounds of the sea as the attentive staff serves a delicious 4-course dinner, featuring

their renowned grilled entrees with your choice of beef, fish, fresh seafood and more. Finish a delightful evening with a tempting dessert and your favorite cocktail or wine from the hotel's extensive selection.

### Start your meal off with...

#### First Steps

##### BEEF PINCHOS WITH CHIMICHURI

##### GRILLED PRAWNS

Roasted Cashew, Mango Cilantro Coulis

##### PERUVIAN CEVICHE

Served with Patacon

#### Second Step

##### MIXED GREENS

Cucumber, Avocado, Hearts of Palm, Tomato, Balsamic Vinaigrette

##### ARUBAN FISH CHOWDER WITH CRISP ONIONS

##### CAESAR SALAD WITH BACON

Parmesan and Ciabata Croutons

### Entrees

##### BLACKENED MAHI MAHI

Garlic Cassava Oil, and Madame Jeanette Papaya

##### SEARED GROUPER

Stir-Fry Rice Pasta, Vegetables with Tamari Sauce

##### GRILLED NEW YORK STEAK

Caribbean Mashed Potato, Stir-Fry Okra and Peppercorn Sauce

##### SEAFOOD PEPPER POT

Shrimps, Scallops, Green Mussels, Baby Clams with Aruban Funchi

### Desserts

##### CARIBBEAN PASSION FRUIT CRÈME BRÛLÉE

##### COCONUT MOUSSE CAKE WITH VANILLA SAUCE

##### DECADENT CHOCOLATE CAKE WITH BERRY COMPOTE

### and much more...

All prices are in U.S. dollars. 15 % service charge plus 1.5% local tax will be added to each check. Prices and menu items are subject to change without notice.

**\$72.00**  
Per Person

### Dining Information

#### HOURS

Daily 6:30p.m. to 10:00pm, nightly except Tuesday

#### RESERVATIONS

Please call the Hyatt Regency +297-586-1234 Ext 37  
www.hyattregencyaruba.com



## PALMS RESTAURANT

## RUINAS DEL MAR



**HYATT  
REGENCY**  
RESORT

# Palms



Feel the warmth at our premier beach front location. Palms offers both the sights and tastes of the Caribbean. Drawing upon local cuisine and regional ingredients, the menu allows guests to linger long into the night over a variety of delicious dishes. Indoor and outdoor seating, as well as adjacent lounge for before and after cocktails.

### Start your meal off with...

#### TRADITIONAL COBB SALAD

Grilled chicken, smoked bacon, egg, avocado, blue cheese, tomatoes, tossed with lemon-Dijon dressing

#### MAPLE-LIME MARINATED SALMON SALAD

Sustainable salmon, spinach, frisee, radish, green beans, egg, mustard dressing

#### BLACKENED FISH TACO

Local grouper, guacamole, shredded cabbage, pico de gallo, Texas beans

### Main Attractions

#### MEYER NATURAL ANGUS BURGER

Aged white cheddar, horseradish sauce, onion jam on a brioche bun

#### GRILLED WAHOO

Local catch grilled with Aruban Creole sauce, island rice

#### ROASTED SALMON

Sustainable salmon, with green vegetables and balsamic vinaigrette

#### MUSHROOM RISOTTO

Aruban cultivated mushrooms and spinach, parmesan cheese

#### WHOLE WHEAT LINGUINE

Shrimp, asparagus, fresh parsley, and roasted garlic oil

### Desserts

#### TIRAMISU

With Coffee Cream Kahlua Liqueur

#### LAVA CAKE

Dutch Chocolate Lava Cake vanilla Ice Cream and Ganache sauce

#### CHEESE CAKE DUO

Cheese Cake and Brownies with Berry Compote, Chantilly and fresh berries

### and much more...

All prices are in U.S. dollars. 15% service charge plus 1.5% local tax will be added to each check. Prices and menu items are subject to change without notice.

### Dining Information

**HOURS:** Open for lunch daily, 11:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Open for Sunday breakfast, 7:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Open for dinner daily except Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Late night menu 11:00 p.m. – 12 midnight

#### RESERVATIONS

Please call the Hyatt Regency +297-586-1234 Ext 37  
www.hyattregencyaruba.com



**HYATT  
REGENCY**  
RESORT

# RUINAS <sup>del</sup> MAR



Ruins by the Sea, is Hyatt Regency Aruba's signature restaurant offering contemporary cuisine in an open air environment. Guests are invited to enjoy menu items such as fresh seafood and steaks, hearth oven specialties, and a display of multiple food stations offering breakfast, Sunday Brunch, and special events. The design of Ruinas del Mal pays homage to several original Aruban architectural elements including caliche stone and the use of water in design

### Start your meal off with...

#### CLASSIC CAESAR SALAD

White Anchovy, Parmesan, Herb Focaccia Croutons

#### DUTCH ONION SOUP

Spek, Sweet Onions, Gouda Gratinée

#### CLASSIC SHRIMP COCKTAIL

American & European Cocktail Sauce, Fresh Citrus

### Main Attractions

#### HEARTH ROASTED BREAST OF CHICKEN

Classic Mirepoix, Baby Criollo Potatoes, French Beans Almandine, Herb Chicken Jus

#### KANSAS RIB EYE STEAK

Creamed spinach & porcini mushroom, fresh cut fried potatoes, demi-glace

#### SAUTÉED GROUPEL FILLET IN BROWN BUTTER

Roasted Almonds, French Beans, Roasted Potato Hash, Brown Sugar Rum Zezebel

#### CIGAR BOX CEDAR SALMON FILLET

French Beans, Baby Criollo Potatoes, Roasted Tomato, Lemon Thyme Confit

#### 6 OZ. GRILLED FILET & HALF SPLIT CARIBBEAN LOBSTER TAIL

Gouda Whipped Potato, Peruvian Asparagus

### Desserts

#### BOURBON SAUCE FLOAT

A combination of red velvet cake and cheese cake topped with cream cheese frosting

#### GLUTEN FREE CHOCOLATE CAKE

Enjoy a sweet finish to your meal with flourless chocolate heaven reaching deep into the gluten free goddess. Perfectly paired with vanilla ice-cream

#### APPLE CRUMBLE

Fresh green apples sautéed with cinnamon, drizzled with crunchy sugar dough and garnished with Dutch stroop wafels

### and much more...

All prices are in U.S. Dollars. A 15% service charge will be added to your bill. Prices and menu items are subject to change without notice

### Dining Information

#### HOURS

Open for breakfast daily except Sundays, 7:00 – 12noon.

Open for dinner daily except Sunday, 6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Open Sundays for Brunch, \$43.95 p.p./ s.c. + tax, 9:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

#### RESERVATIONS

Please call the Hyatt Regency +297-586-1234 Ext 36  
www.hyattregencyaruba.com



# Menu Temptations

## IKE'S BISTRO



Enjoy a modern twist on Mediterranean cuisine, Caribbean style, with Aruba's most talented, young chef Ever De Pena, paying homage to the late resort founder, award winning hotelier Ike Cohen. With seating on the garden terrace or around the tropical pool, the restaurant overlooks the beach and the Caribbean ocean. Ike's Bistro experience is enchanting and all menu items are extremely enticing. Undecided guests may opt for the tasting menu of 4 or 5 smaller portions of the chef's seasonal specialties.

### Start your meal off with...

#### CAPRESE AND PESTO

Buffalo mozzarella, tomato, orange, basil mousse

#### CRAB CAKE

Lump crab cake, fresh made aioli, mixed greens, kalamata olives, feta cheese and cherry tomatoes

#### WHITE GAZPACHO

Cold refreshing white leek soup, infused with fresh herbs

#### SCALLOPS AND CORN

Grilled scallops served with corn puree and orange vinaigrette

### Main Attractions

#### SHRIMP A LA BRAVA

Slightly spicy shrimp, boiled potatoes, fresh basil, creamy spicy sauce, grilled pita bread

#### SEA BASS

Pan seared sea bass with sautéed spinach, guinoa salad and yoghurt pomegranate salsa

#### LAMB

Crusted lamb chops, couscous mint, green beans, corn and creamy pesto sauce

#### LAND & SEA

Grilled filet of beef & sautéed shrimp with garlic mashed potato, creamy spinach and lobster sauce

### Desserts

#### ORANGE CATALANA

Vanilla custard flavored with orange zest topped with a hard caramel layer

#### PASSION FRUIT PARFAIT AND BERRIES

Passion fruit parfait, wild berries, mint sauce and strawberry ice cream

### and much more...

All prices are in U.S Dollars. A 15% service charge will be added to your check.

### Dining Information

#### HOURS

Dinner: 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

#### RESERVATIONS

Tel: +297 582-3444 ext. 203

Email: [ikesbistro@manchebo.com](mailto:ikesbistro@manchebo.com)

[www.manchebo.com](http://www.manchebo.com)



## L.G. SMITH'S STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

L.G. SMITH'S

STEAK & CHOP HOUSE



This American Steakhouse brings mouthwatering fare and an extensive international wine list to one of Oranjestad's hottest locations. Here diners will find juicy cuts of aged, USDA-inspected Certified Angus Beef, reasonably priced and sizzling hot from the grill; exquisitely prepared appetizers from both land and sea; and tantalizing desserts including the Signature Mascarpone Tart. The comprehensive wine list includes premium selections from around the globe to superbly compliment each course of your meal. With sweeping views of the downtown marina and the bustling boulevard below.

### Start your meal off with...

#### DUET OF CRAB

Lump crab cake, stone crab claw, lemon butter caper sauce, grilled sourdough bread..... \$17.00

#### CARPACCIO

Certified Angus Beef ® filet, tossed wakame, pine nuts, miso vinaigrette..... \$14.00

#### APPLEWOOD SMOKED STEAK

Certified Angus Beef ®steak, baby spinach, mushrooms, crispy onions, asparagus, fresh ground black pepper-bacon vinaigrette..... \$15.00

### Main Attractions

FILET MIGNON, 10 OZ..... \$36.00

KANSAS CITY BONE -IN STRIP, 16 OZ..... \$37.00

VEAL CHOP, 14 OZ..... \$43.00

SURF & TURF..... \$41.00

5oz Certified Angus Beef ® filet mignon, half lobster.....

SEAFOOD MIGNON..... \$36.00

5oz Certified Angus Beef ® filet mignon, fresh pasta, shrimp, scallops, Madame Jeanette lobster sauce.....

VEGETABLE WELLINGTON..... \$17.00

Broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash, mushrooms, spinach, wine sauce.....

Broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash, mushrooms, spinach, wine sauce.....

Broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash, mushrooms, spinach, wine sauce.....

Broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash, mushrooms, spinach, wine sauce.....

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Broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash, mushrooms, spinach, wine sauce.....

Broccoli, zucchini, yellow squash, mushrooms, spinach, wine sauce.....



### Dining Information

#### HOURS: Dinner 5:30 to 11:00 p.m., Monday to Sunday

Live entertainment by the popular saxophonist "El Prove" every Saturday from 6:30pm

Dinner and a movie at The Cinema's at Renaissance Marketplace seatings at 5:30,

6:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Midnight Grill Lounge 11:00 p.m. To 6:00 a.m.

Live music until 3:00 a.m.

#### RESERVATIONS

Tel: +297 523 6115 / 523 6195

L.G. Smith Blvd. 82, Oranjestad City Center. All major credit cards accepted

[www.lgsmiths.com](http://www.lgsmiths.com)

## TEXAS DE BRAZIL



Texas de Brazil is an authentic Brazilian-American style steakhouse, the ultimate in continuous dining concepts. Diners are tempted by an extravagant 40-item seasonal salad area of roasted vegetables, imported cheeses and home-made soups. Hailed for its "flawless meats" by the Dallas Morning News, carvers will then swarm your table with choice cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage and chicken; all flamegrilled to perfection and served tableside on large sword-like skewers. Signature Brazilian cocktails, rare wines, exquisite desserts, and hand-rolled Cuban cigars make for the most incredible dining experience that is uniquely Texas de Brazil.



### Start your meal off with...

#### SALAD BAR

The exceptional salad bar consists of the freshest salads, home-made dressings, buffalo mozzarella, zucchini, potato salad, crab salad, daily cold pasta, black beans with pork, baby corn, cucumbers, portabella mushrooms, sweet bell peppers, green beans, broccoli, olives, hearts of palm, sushi, ceviche, salami, tomatoes, smoked bacon, brown rice, imported cheeses, daily house soups and more.

### Main Attractions

#### MEATS

Filet mignon, filet mignon wrapped in bacon, top sirloin, leg of lamb, Brazilian sausage, Parmesan pork, chicken breast wrapped in bacon, Brazilian picanha, garlic picanha (our house specialty), flank steak, crispy chicken drum sticks, pork loin, pork ribs and beef ribs.

#### SIDE ITEMS

Garlic mashed potatoes, fried sweet bananas, Brazilian cheese bread and house specialty meat sauces.

### Desserts

Selection of desserts ranging from delicious cakes to papaya cream, our house specialty!

### and much more...

*All prices are in U.S. dollars. 15% service charge plus 1.5% local tax will be added to each check. Prices and menu items are subject to change without notice.*

### Dining Information

#### HOURS

Dinner from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. nightly Monday to Saturday  
Sunday 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

#### RESERVATIONS

Juan E. Irausquin Blvd. 382. Palm Beach  
Telephone: +297-586-4686  
www.texasdebrazil.com



## WATER'S EDGE 12°N



Enjoy a contemporary eatery, on the water's edge at Costa Linda Beach Resort. After a total remake and design the Water's Edge Restaurant, 12° North, is spectacular, featuring an octagon-shaped dining room with beautiful ocean views paired with an on-trend menu of pastas, steaks, and fresh seafood dishes. Lounge at the stylish adjacent bar or linger over breakfast, lunch, and cocktails in the tropical outdoors. Reasonably priced, serving generous portions.

### Breakfast

#### EGGS & OMELETS

American Breakfast, Aruba Breakfast, Creole or Western Omelet and more..... **From \$5.95**

#### PANCAKES & FRENCH TOAST

With your choice of seasonal fruits or berries..... **From \$6.00**

#### BELGIAN WAFFLES & CREPES

Crepe Montecristo layered with roast turkey, cured ham, Cheddar and Monterey Jack cheeses..... **From \$5.00**

#### FRUITS & CEREALS

### Lunch

#### APPETIZERS, SOUPS & SALADS, BURGERS, SANDWICHES & WRAPS.....

**From \$7.00**

### Dinner

#### APPETIZERS, SOUPS & SALADS, SEAFOOD & PASTA, STEAKS

Spicy Caribbean Seafood Pasta, Filet of Grouper topped with fresh mango salsa, steamed asparagus, Ribeye or NY Strip Sirloin **Appetizers from \$7**  
Steak with apple wood smoked bacon bleu cheese butter..... **Main courses from \$15**

### Bar Menu

#### APPETIZERS, BURGERS, SANDWICHES

Beef Carpaccio, Chips & Dips, Crispy Wings, Buffalo Shrimp, Quesadillas..... **From \$7.00**

### and much more...

*All prices are in UD dollars. Prices and menu items are subject to change 15% service charge, +1.5% tax will be added to your bill*

### Dining Information

#### HOURS

Breakfast, served 8:00 am to 11:00 am  
Lunch, served 11:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Dinner, served from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm  
Bar Menu, served all day, 11:00 am to 11:00 pm

#### RESERVATIONS

Costa Linda Beach Resort. Tel: +297-583-80-00 ext 725/788  
water@setarner.aw



## BEAUTY TEAM

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Specializes in state of the art hair styling,  
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Sibelius Street #8 | Oranjestad | Aruba | Tel. 582 5599

## PUREOCEAN

# pureocean

BEACHSIDE DINING



Pureocean is located right on the beach at the Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort. Unwind in lazy, comfortable chairs on our white sandy beach as you watch the sun set. Inside, the décor is rustic and open-aired. Enjoy the spectacular ocean view from your table, or dine directly on the beach, savoring our chef's fusion-style cooking, featuring fresh seafood, lobster and great steaks, all at reasonable prices.

### Start your meal off with...

<b>COCONUT CURRY MUSSELS</b> Steamed with fresh cilantro, light curry coconut milk.....	\$15.00
<b>ICED SHRIMP COCKTAIL</b> Lime cocktail sauce.....	\$9.50
<b>THE WEDGE</b> Wedge of iceberg, crisp bacon, diced tomatoes, blue cheese crumbles, creamy blue cheese dressing.....	\$7.00

### Main Attractions

<b>SEARED SCALLOPS</b> Served over a cherry tomato, asparagus risotto.....	\$23.00
<b>CRISPY COCONUT CURRY GROUPER</b> Crispy fried grouper over a bed of jasmine rice, plantain, stir fried vegetables, finished with a mild coconut curry sauce.....	\$22.00
<b>CARIBBEAN LOBSTER</b> Broiled served with a sweet potato mash, market vegetables, drawn butter and lemon.....	Market Price
<b>STEAK FRITES</b> Grilled skirt steak, plantain and chimichurrie sauce.....	\$28.50
<b>FILET MIGNON</b> USDA beef tenderloin, pan seared, blue cheese BBQ sauce.....	\$38.00
<b>OSSO BUCO</b> Bone-In Veal shank, vegetable stew, served over a squash risotto.....	\$32.00

### Dessert

<b>CRÈME BRÛLE</b> Kaffir lime-scented Catalonian crème brulee.....	\$9.50
<b>MINI DESSERT TRIO</b> Our delicious desserts- miniaturized! Crème brulee, warm chocolate bread pudding, and mango cheese cake.....	\$11.00

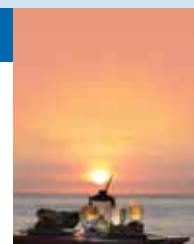
### and much more...

*Prices and menu items are subject to change without notice.*

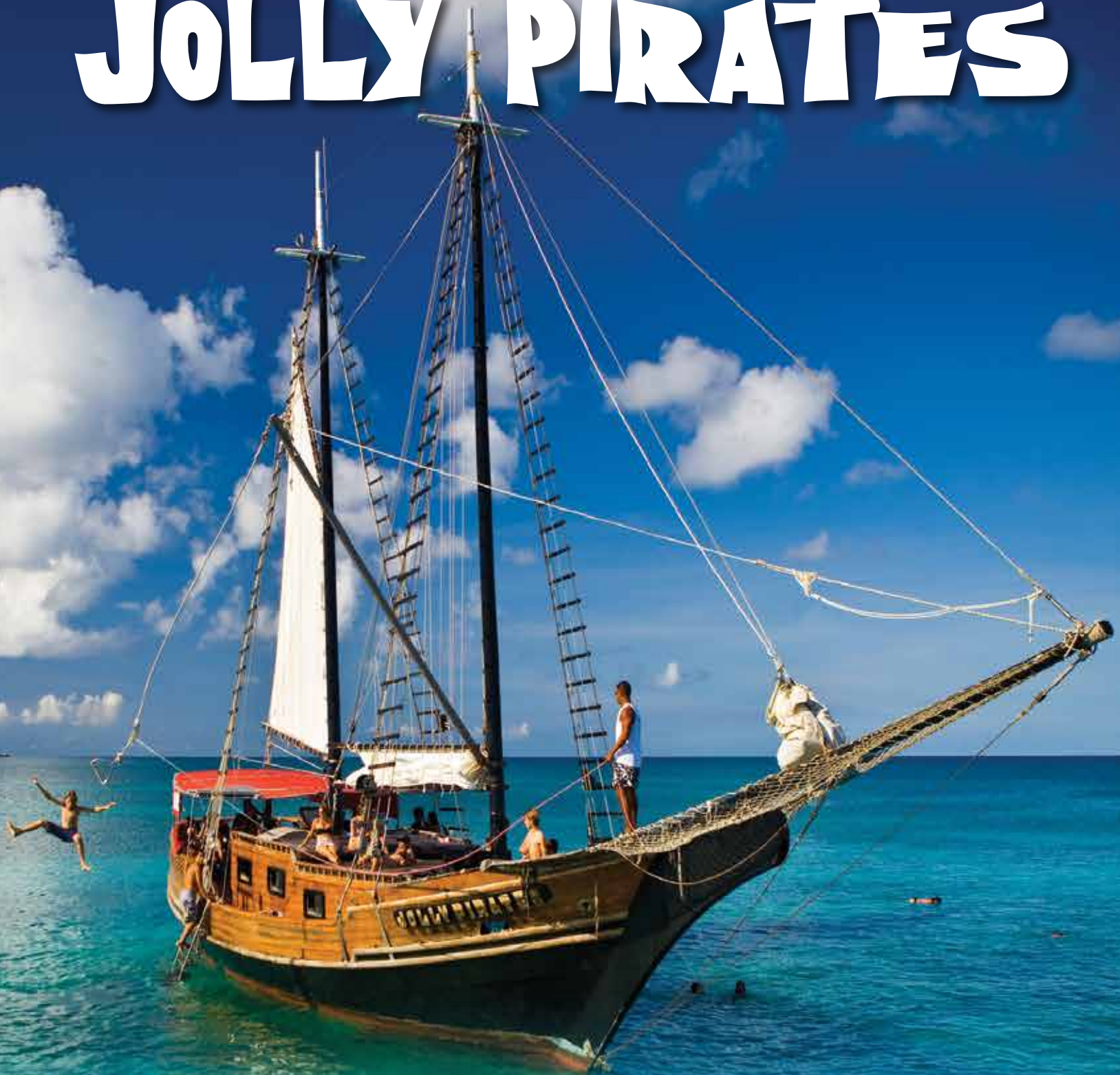
### Dining Information

**HOURS**  
Breakfast: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. daily  
Dinner: from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Happy: Hour 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**RESERVATIONS**  
Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort, Juan E Irausquin 75, Palm Beach  
Tel.: +297 586-6066 ext 7029, after 5 p.m. extension 7041 or 6166  
Email: phxfnb@diviresort.com



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Palm Beach Plaza Mall . L.G. Smith Blvd. # 95  
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Tel: (297) 5862526 . Fax: (297) 5826791  
Email: [info@shivasjewelers.com](mailto:info@shivasjewelers.com)

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